

St. Thomas Reformed Church  
St. Thomas, U. S. Virgin Islands  
Founded 1660



*A Child is Born*

*December 24, 2021*

We Welcome One and All  
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

# ST. THOMAS REFORMED CHURCH

## Christmas Eve, 2021 7pm

*We welcome you to this special candlelight service to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We pray that the Child of Bethlehem will find a place in your life, that you may know the wonder of being loved unconditionally, cherished unceasingly, and saved everlastingly. As we journey into the future, may the God of Peace be with you and fill you with joy!*

**Welcome**                  **“Behold...The Light From On High!”**

**Prelude**                                  **“Fantasie”**                                  Weiss  
Bonham Geller

**Call to Worship**

**Choral Introit**                  **“He Is the Light of the World”**                  Alexander  
Dancers: Amber Knight, Camille McKayle-Stolz

For unto you on this day in the city of David  
Of David, a Child is born  
In Bethlehem come to us is a Child and a Savior  
A Savior, which is Christ the Lord

*Refrain:*

He is the Light of the world  
Radiant in splendor, redemption's story  
He is the Light of the world  
Piercing the darkness, shining in glory

And you shall find ev'ry hope for the earth at a manger  
A manger, in a newborn Boy  
And you shall hear in the night the clear voices of angels  
Of angels, singing tidings of joy (*refrain*)

**The Light of Christ Comes into the World**

Acolyte: Ryanne Flowers

**Isaiah's Prophecy 9:2,6**

Robert Stolz

**\*Carol**

**'O Come All Ye Faithful'**

*Antioch/Wade*

Michael Barr, trumpet

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful, and triumphant  
O come ye  
O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of angels

*Chorus:*

O come, let us adore him 3x  
Christ, the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest (*chorus*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee  
Born for our salvation  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing (*chorus*)

**Scripture Reading**

**Luke 1:26-38**

Rose Whitter

**Song**

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

*Redner, arr. Raney*

Levi Farrell, flute

**Meditation**

**"Still Rejoicing"**

Pastor Jeff Neevel

**Carol**

**'The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy'**

*West Indian Carol*

**\*The Virgin Mary had a baby boy (3x)**  
And they say that His name is Jesus  
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom  
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom  
Oh yes, believer; Oh yes, believer  
He come from the glory, He come from the glorious kingdom

**\*The angels sang when the baby was born...**

**Scripture Reading**

**Mathew 1: 18-23**

Karson Kendall

Child of promise, Lord of all  
Quietly sleeping on a bed of straw  
Angels in heaven rejoice and give praise  
Sing, for the Savior is born on this day

*Chorus:*

For unto us a child is born  
Prince of peace and Lord of lords  
On this night, a star burns bright  
Shining the way to the Truth and the Life

Child of wonder, hope of the earth  
Shepherds and magi celebrate Your birth  
You are the reason the beautiful sing  
You bring the song that will change everything (*chorus*)

**Meditation**

**“The Greatest Story”**

Pastor Ben Rowe

**Carol**

**‘The First Noel’**

*Traditional*

**The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep**

*Chorus:*

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel**

**They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night (*chorus*)**

**Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2: 1-7**

Talisse Thompson

**Song**

**“Rockabye, Sweet Baby Boy”**

*Pethel*

Andrea Lee, soloist

Rockabye, sweet Baby Boy  
Rockabye, sweet Jesus  
O, rockabye, little Holy Child  
Rockabye, sweet Jesus

O, wonder of wonders and joy of joys  
Our gift from heaven is this holy Boy  
So come and worship with the shepherds there  
You can hear the music way up in the air  
Singing rockabye, sweet Jesus

**Meditation**

**“Taking Chances!”**

Pastor Jeff Neevel

**Solo**

**“The Night That Christ Was Born”**

*Franklin*

Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Listen to the angels  
Rejoicing ever so sweetly  
Receiving heaven's glory  
The night that Christ was born

Can't you see the people  
Coming from ev'ry nation  
Pleading for salvation  
The night that Christ was born

Glory, glory, glory  
Hallelujah  
Holy, holy, holy  
The night that Christ was born

Oh, such a wonderful Savior  
To be born in a manger  
So that I can share in His favor  
And my heart be made anew

Listen to the trumpet  
Shouting through the darkness  
Crying holy, holy  
The night that Christ was born

Listen to the trumpet  
Shouting through the darkness  
Now behold a Savior  
The night that Christ was born

**Chorus:**  
He is born, the divine Christ Child  
Play the oboe and bagpipes merrily  
He is born, the holy Child  
Sing we all of the Savior mild

Ha nacido, el niño Dios  
Toquen las flautas y los tambores  
Ha nacido, el niño Dios  
Alabemos al Salvador

Through long ages of the past  
Prophets have foretold His coming  
Through long ages of the past  
Now the time has come at last (*chorus*)

He is born! Now the Child has come  
Fill the air with our merry carols  
Play the pipe, beat the joyful drum  
Hope is born, for the Child has come (*chorus*)

**Scripture Reading**

**Luke 2: 8-20**

Devonte Duncan

**Song**

**"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"**

*arr. Larson*

God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
Let nothing you dismay  
Remember Christ our Saviour  
Was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
When we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

From God our Heavenly Father  
A blessed Angel came  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

"Fear not, then", said the Angel  
"Let nothing you affright  
This day is born a Savior  
Of a pure Virgin bright  
To free all those who trust in Him  
From Satan's power and might"  
O tidings of comfort and joy  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

**Meditation**

**“Jesus Moves In”**

Pastor Ben Rowe

**Carol**

**‘What Child Is This’**

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who laid to rest  
On Mary’s lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping

*Chorus:*

This, this is Christ the King  
Whom shepherds guard  
And angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud  
The Babe, the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh  
Come peasant, king to own Him  
The King of kings salvation brings  
Let loving hearts enfold Him (*chorus*)

## Christmas Eve Offering

*(100% of tonight's Christmas Eve offering will help us continue providing free dinners at our Wednesday "Family Church night" program.)*

### Offertory

### **"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

Nelson

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone

Snow had fallen, snow on snow  
Snow on snow  
In the bleak mid-winter  
Long ago

Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor the earth sustain  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ

Oh, what can I give Him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a Shepherd  
I would bring a lamb  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what can I give Him?  
Give my heart

### Scripture Reading

**Matthew 2: 1-12**

Marian Hancock



## The Christmas Eve Prayer

**Solo: "O Holy Night"**

Adam/Dwight

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth  
A thrill of hope; the weary world rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn  
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother  
And in His name, all oppression shall cease  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we  
Let all within us praise His Holy name  
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

## The Lighting of Candles

*The ushers light their candles from the Christ candle and pass the light to the congregation. Unlit candles should be dipped toward the lighted candles.*

## Carol

**'Silent Night'**

Mohr/Gruber

Silent night, holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace  
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia  
Christ, the Savior is born  
Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

## A Time of Silence

### Benediction

**\*Carol**

**‘Joy to the World’**

*Watts/Handel*

*(At the strains of this carol, please extinguish your candle.)*

**Joy to The world! the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand (if able) only for carols marked with (\*).  
Please remember to silence all cell phones and pagers.*

The offering tonight benefits our Wednesday “Family Church night” program. We encourage families to come out and join us for a free dinner along with Christian Education & ministry opportunities.

## Thank You

**The music for this** evening's service is a gift to all of us. We extend a grateful thank you to our Minister of Music and Arts, Chanelle Schaffer, and a warm thanks to all of the members of the choir and other musicians who give many hours of time in preparation for making this night joyful for all.

**Minister of Music and Arts:** Chanelle Schaffer

**Trumpet:** Michael Barr

**Flute:** Levi Farrell

**Guitar:** Bonham Geller

### **Choir:**

Lori Abbotts

Geoffrey Barnard

Shirley Coffelt

William Howe

Andrea Lee

Andrew Neevel

Sara Neevel

Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Fred Northup

Julie Northup

Emily Rowe

### **Soloists:**

Andrea Lee

Dr. Ronald Nimmo

Emily Rowe

### **Dancers:**

Amber Knight

Camille McKayle-Stolz

### **ASL Interpreter:**

Sarah Hancock

## **Thank you to others serving this evening:**

**Readers:** Robert Stolz, Rose Whitter, Karson Kendall, Talise Thompson, Devonte Duncan, Marian Hancock

**Acolyte:** Ryanne Flowers

**AV Team:** James Anderson, James Cobb, Andrea King, Dave Whitter

**Head Usher:** Randy Shaw

**Ushers:** Shaw Clements, Konner Kendall, Hobie James, MacKenzie Shaw, Anthony Smith, Noah Stolz, Jesse Wyatt

**Welcome** and thank you for joining our St Thomas Reformed Church family as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. You are invited to become part of our congregation, please take a moment to fill out our digital connect card at <https://strchurch.org/im-new>.

**Special thanks** to artist Tony Romano for the original painting "Behold! ...The Light From On High!" which took shape during the season of Advent. Tony has been inspired by the themes and events of each Sundays' worship service. We've waited with eager anticipation and now, all—including this beautiful work of art!—is revealed. Christ the Savior is born. Alleluia!

**Bathrooms** for the congregation's use are in the Undercroft.

### **Contact Information**

**Mailing Address** PO Box 301769 St. Thomas, VI 00803

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